(d) if so, when the restoration work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Fathepuri Masjid is not a centrally protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India hence it is outside the preview of ASI. The Wakf Board has not approached ASI for any technical help for conservation work.

Theft of cultural heritage

†1510. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that number of incidents of theft pertaining to cultural heritage has increased; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Available information does not indicate that the incidents of theft of heritage objects are on the rise. Watch and ward staff are deployed to ensure protection of the ancient sculptures and artifacts in the nationally protected monuments, sites and museums. Their strength has been supplemented by private security guards, State Police and Central Industrial Security Force.

Monuments in Himachal Pradesh

1511. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally protected monuments/sites which have been declared of national importance in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government does not have any concrete planning for their day-to-day maintenance;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the details of steps Government proposes to take to protect these sites; and

(d) the amount sanctioned from National Culture Fund to Himachal Pradesh and the details of amount actually spent on these monuments/sites in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Forty monuments/sites in Himachal Pradesh have been notified as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has an annual conservation programme for all centrally protected monuments/sites as per assessment of the state of preservation. Required civil works and chemical preservation are undertaken as per archaeological norms subject to availability of resources.

(d) Archaeological Survey of India has spent the following amount from its budget on conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years:

2004-05	Rs. 59.19 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 89.80 lakhs
2006-07	Rs. 117.50 lakhs

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.